ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# MINUTES

OF THE

# EIGHTIETH ANNUAL SESSION.

OF THE

# BETHLEHEM

# Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

## Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church,

MONROE COUNTY. ALA.,

## October 14, 15 & 16, 1896,

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## OFFICERS:

REV. J. H. RIFFE, Moderator, - - - - Monroeville, Ala.

SAMUEL H. DAILEY, Clerk, - - - - Kempville, Ala.

MONROEVILLE:
Monroe Democrat Job Print.
1896.

# CONSTITUTION.

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ARTICLE 1. This body shall be called THE BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ART. 2. It shall be composed of Messengers duly elected by Missionary Baptist Churches of Christ in connection with this Association. Each church shall be entitled to three Messengers and an additional one for every fifty members or fractional part thereof.

ART. 3. It shall meet annually according to adjournment; and when assembled thus, shall elect, by private ballot, a Moderator and a Clerk, whose duties shall be such as custom imposes on their respective offices. They shall continue in office until superseded by their duly elected successors.

ART. 4. This body is no "court of appeals" and shall exercise no ecclesiastical authority over the churches.

ART. 5. The business of this body, when assembled, shall be to hear reports from the churches as to their spiritual condition, prosperity, etc., and to consult and advise together for their mutual development and co-operation in all matters pertaining to the evangelization of the world.

ART. 6. This body, when assembled, may receive other Missionary Baptist Churches into this Union.

ART. 7. This body may request or receive correspondence with any other like body; or any rerpesentative body or interest of our denomination.

ART. 8. This body may invite visiting brethren of like bodies and others representing our denominational interest, to seats with us, and such brethren may speak on any subject coming before the body, but can not vote or officiate as a member of this body.

ART. 9. It shall be the duty of every Messenger of this Association to remain until final adjournment, unless leave of absence is obtained; and it shall be the duty of the Clerk to call the roll of Messengers and to strike therefrom the names of all Messengers absent without leave.

ART. 10. The Constitution, the order of Business and the By-Laws shall be printed annually in the minutes of this body.

ART. 11. The Clerk shall keep a regular file of the minutes of this body from year to year.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be altered, amended (except Art. 4), or repealed and a new one adopted at any regular meeting of this body by a two-thirds voice of the body.

# MINUTES.

## FIRST DAY--WEDNESDAY.

The eightieth annual session of the Bethelhem Baptist Association was held with the Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Monroe County, Alabama, beginning on Wednesday, October 14, 1896.

The Association convened at 10 o'clock A. M., and after devotional exercises conducted by Elder W. M. Rabb, was called to order by the Clerk.

The Moderator being absent on motion, Elder J. H. Riffe was appointed temporary Moderator.

The roll of churches was called and letters presented. Elders B. H. Crumpton, W. M. Rabb and Bro. T. B. Nettles were appointed to read the letters.

Messengers were enrolled as follows:

### ENROLLMENT OF MESSENGERS.

Bellville church—B. H. Crumpton, William Miller, William Kyser, and F. G. Kary.

Bethany church—S. D. Nash, L. R. Riley, A. J. Lee, John Morris, T. J. Maxwell.

Brewer Creek church—J. D. McCrory.

Enon church—J. L. Hurry, N. A. McNiel, A. D. McNiel, R. T. Solomon, and Burrel Quinby.

Hamilton Hill church—S. J. Biven, E. B. O'Gwynn, S. P. Hetherington.

Judson church—W. T. Bates.

Monroeville church—J. H. Riffe, W. S. Wiggins, Sr., W. L. Rikard, and T. S. Wiggins.

Little River church—W. R. Lambert.

Oak Grove church—J. J, Roley, Joseph Hanks, and D. W. Powell.

Pleasant Hill Church—A. J. Stacey, A. B. Hales, Riley Norris, D. C. Stacey, B. F. Folen and Wiley Blanton.

Pleasant Ridge church—J. M. Dees, G. H. Roley, G. G. Stanton, J. S. Buford, and D. K. Smith.

Poplar Springs church—J. W. Murphy.

Perdue Hill church—W. E. Broughton, James Crook, N. C. Thames, and James Thames.

Philadelphia church—S. D. Nettles, S. H. Dailey, J. T. Newberry, Archer Booker, T. B. Nettles, and T. E. Dennis, Sr.

Ramah Church—J. H. Waters, Wm. Williams, Q. E. Powell, and T. H. Rains.

Repton church—G. W. Thompson, and A. B. Bartlett.

Salem church—L. A. Hendrix, David Jay, and W. W. Dailey.

Zion church—W. A. Lock, Isaac Andress, Isaac Watson, H. C. Johnson, and Duke Farrow.

The Moderator appointed the Pastor (Elder W. A. Lock,) and the Messengers of Pleasant Ridge church, a committee on preaching. In the absence of Elder S. P. Lindsey, by request of the Association, Elder B. H. Crumpton preached the Introductory Sermon from 1st Chronicles 12 chapter, 32 verse.

Brethren J. T. Newberry, J. D. McCrory, and H. C. Johnston were appointed as tellers to receive the votes which should be cast for officers of this body immediately on re-assembling after adjournment.

The Association adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M.

## EVENING SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator promptly at 2 o'clock P. M.

Elder W. A. Lock from the committee on preaching announced that Elder W. M. Rabb would preach at the stand this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Bro. J. T. Newberry reported that the election for Officers of the Association, resulted in the election of Elder J. H. Riffe, Moderator, and S. H. Dailey, Clerk.

Visitors were received, and invited to take part in the deliberations, as follows: Representing the Alabama Baptist, Elder W. M. Rabb, Conecuh Association, and Bro. G. W. Riley from the Pine Barren Association, Elder B. H. Crumpton was also recognized as representative of Howard College.

The Moderator announced the standing committees to report during

the session.

A motion prevailed, that the Pastors be appointed a committee to nominate the District and Advisory Boards.

A motion prevailed that the Messengers pay over their funds to the finance committee this afternoon, to enable said committee to make report.

## RELIGIOUS AND DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE REPORT.

The necessity of Culture, is admitted, in every department of enterprise and life. God said to Man, in the pronunciation of the curse for Sin: "In the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat thy bread all the days of thy life;" and it is observable, in all History, that no people have progressed, in any age, without *knowledge*. To be *capable*, then, we must be *intelligent*; and to be intelligent we must *read*, and *acquire*. Literature, Reading, Study, thought embodied in Books and Papers, and their due distribution among our people, are all essential to our development, and progress, as a Denomination; and should be made subjects, in all of our deliberations, of paramount consideration. To be, we must first know *how to be;* and we cannot do this without a *Literature*. Your committee, in this report, would earnestly recommend the adoption of some system, or arrangement, by which our people can have an adequate supply of good religious and denominational reading; and, in order to their intelligence on all of our "State Affairs," that your honorable Body recommended to them *The Ala Baptist*, as our State Denominational Organ, and Current Newspaper. Respectfully submitted,

R. I. DRAUGHON, Chairman,

Com' McConico and Poplar Springs Churches.

Report on religious periodicals was read and discussed by Elder B. H. Crumpton, and amended by Elder W. A. Lock so as to recommend to the Foreign Mission Journal adopted as amended.

Elder J. H. Riffe made report on Home Missions discussed by Elders J. H. Riffe and B. H. Crumpton and adopted as read as follows:

Your committee to report on Home Missions beg to submit the following:

The phrase, "*Home Missions*," does not mean, as many suppose, at our doors and in our own District Association. Nay, it is far-reaching and ever-widening; and it is destined to compass, "the uttermost parts of the earth." In a very true sense, it is the simplest obedience to the command of our Redeemer and King: "Go teach *all* nations," "*Beginning at Jerusalem.*"

Information is an important requsite to the success of missions, and especially is this true of Home Missions. Therefore—

1. Whence and what is Home Missions?

The Home Mission Board, now located at Atlanta, Ga., was born as a creature of the Southern Baptist Convention about fifty-one years ago. Its formation was the result of a long-felt, deep consciousness of a vast destitution hitherto unprovided for. This destitution was here in our own beloved home land; and hence the name, "Home Missions." It embraces all ot the Southern Baptist Convention and Cuba.

2. A Glance at what the Home Mission Board has done and the Fields of her Operation.

Fifty-one years ago when this Board was formed the entire number ot Baptists in this great Southland, including both white and black, did not exceed 450,000. Today we numbrr not less than 3,000,000, including both races. An increase of about 2,550,000 in one brief half century. Such an increase is shown by no other denomination, and is unequaled by any people in any age in the history of Christianity.

We have today among white Baptist alone in the South about 18,000 churches, with an aggregate of more than a million and a half members; and it is safe to say that one-sixth of these organizations and one-seventh of their membership are the result of the work ot the Home Mission Board.

Our wonderful progress in many other respects has been even more marvelous than in numbers; and in all of which the Home Mission Board has been an important factor.

Besides all this, this Board has succored our Baptist cause, while in in its infancy, in every Capital in every State, except Frankfort, Ky., within the scope of the Southern Baptist Convention, and even Washington City, D. C.

She has done a great work among the Indians in the Indian Territory and all through, "The Wild West."

She has given much needed aid to "The Blacks" throughout the country; anb she has been a very potent factor for good among the Foreign Populations in many of our cities. And last, but not least, just think of her work in Cuba. A marvel of the Nineteenth Century!

3. A brief statement of the work of the Home Mission Board for the year ending May 1, 1896.

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|---|---|
| Number Missionaries | 411 |
| " received by faith and baptism | 5,617 |
| " " " letter | 6,672 |
| Total No. " during the year | 12,289 |

Number churches constituted ..... 207
" houses of worship built ..... 92
" Bibles distributed ..... 2,595

4. Financial Condition of this Board May 1, 1896.

Receipts for the year May 1, 1896 was $75,927. The Board began the year with a debt of $1,100, and ended the year with an indebtedness of $7,950, making an increase of indebtedness of $6,850. Of this amount $5,150 was invested in property in New Orleans and El Paso, making the expenditures for the conventional year above receipts $1,600.

5. Resolutions.

First. That we recognize the Home Mission Work as a part of the Great Commission given by our Redeemer.

Second. That we strive to support this Board with both our contributions and prayers. J. H. RIFFE, Ch'm.

The report on Orphan's Home was read and discussed by Elders W. M. Rabb, B. H. Crumpton, and Bro. L. R. Riley, amended by Elder B. H. Crumpton, and adopted as amended as follows:

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ORPHANS' HOME.

Your committee beg leave to say that our Orphanage is now located at Evergreen, and has been in operation for about six years. We are informed through Sister Ansley of the Home, that it is in pressing need of all the available funds, and that the buildings of the Home are in a very dilapidated state. The Home has taken in and cared for, up to this time, some sixty-five children; about forty of which are now in the Home. We are also informed that everything is being done to administer the affairs of the Home in an economical way, but unless a greater effort is made to aid the Home, it will be hard to proceed. We are also informed that, owing to lack of funds, etc., the Home has been compelled to refuse further applicants until better arrangements can be made.

Respectfully submitted. A. J. LEE, Ch'm.

## AMENDMENT.

Resolved:—That the Pastors and Messengers be requested to place this subject of "The Home" before their various churches, endeavoring to bring them all into sympathy and co-operation with the enterprise.

A motion prevailed that the Association shall meet at 9 o'clock, a. m., adjourn at 12 m., meet at 1:30 p m., and adjourn at 4 p. m.

Prayer by Elder W. A. Lock, adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

## SECOND DAY, THURSDAY.

The Association was called to order at 9 o'clock a. m., by the Moderator. Devotional exercises conducted by Elder B. H. Crumpton.

Minutes of previous day read and approved, Roll of Messengers called and corrected.

The report on Temperance was submitted and discussed by Elders W. M. Rabb, J. H. Riffe, W. A. Lock, B. H. Crumpton, and Brethren W. L. Rikard, J. J. Roley, John Morris, L. R. Riley, G. H. Roley and Wm. Miller adopted as read as follows:

### TEMPERANCE REPORT.

So much has been written on the subject of Temperance that it is difficult to write anything that has not been frequently written before. The time has been when it was treated and acted upon as a moral subject, affecting alike finances and society. It seems now to have entered into politics, and become the single-plank platform of the Prohibition party. The word Temperance now has almost become a synonym of prohibition. It is generally understood, as complete abstinence. This is the safest policy in reference to all stimulants, because the first touch is the first link of the chain of a drunkard's life. Drinking among church members is considerably on the decrease, but the war ought to be waged against liquor drinking until it shall be stopped at least in the churches. The most repugnant sight to be seen is a professed Christian under the influence of strong drink. Churches ought to deal promptly and strictly with drunkenness as in all other cases of disorder. Respectfully submitted, S. J. Biven, Ch'm.

Bro. H. C. Johnson made report on Sabbath Schools. Discussed by Elders Collin Lock, B. H. Crumpton, W. M. Rabb, and Brethren J. W. Murphy and Wm. Miller adopted as read as follows:

### REPORT OF SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sabbath Schools submit the following: No. of churches in the Bethlehem Association 20, number of Sabbath Schools reported 11, number of scholars enrolled 422, average attendance 230. Total contribution 29,47, number baptized from schools 11.

We, your committee would suggest that the churches make strenuous efforts to organize and sustain schools in all their bodies.

Respectfully submitted, H. C. Johnson, Ch'm.

The hour of 11 o'clock having arrived Elder J. H. Riffe, according to appointment, preached from Mark. 16 chapter and 15 verse.

Prayer by Elder W. M. Rabb, and adjourned to 1:30 p. m.

## EVENING SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Devotional exercises conducted by Elder B. H. Crumpton.

The Moderator appointed Elders B. H. Crumpton, and W. A. Lock a committee on condition of churches. Also appointed a committee on nomination, and requests, consisting of Brethren D. K. Smith, S. J. Biven, L. R. Riley, A. J. Stacey, and A. D. McNiel. Bro. T. B. Nettles made report on Foreign Missions discussed by Elder B. H. Crumpton, and adopted as read as follows:

## REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The great command given by the Master does not mean for us to be idle, for the first word signifies motion.

1st.—(a) Foreign Pagan Fields—Japan, China, and Africa; (b) Foreign Papal Fields—Italy, Brazil, and Mexico.

2nd.—Population of the Respective Fields—Japan, 38,000,000; China, 400,000,000; Africa, 250,000,000; Italy, 30,000,000; Brazil, 14,000,000; Mexico, 10,000,000. Total, 742,000,000.

3rd.—Work Begun—Japan, 1887; China, 1837; Africa, 1850; Italy, 1870; Brazil, 1881, and Mexico, 1880.

4th.—No. of Missionaries—Japan, 6; (Increase 1), China, 41; seven ordained Ministers, (native) and thirty-seven ordained helpers; Africa, 6; Italy, 3; Brazil, 11, (6 native); Mexico, 19. Total, 82. Total number ordained nations, 67.

5th.—Baptisms—Japan 3; China 155: Africa 51; Italy 79; Brazil 273. Mexico 177. Total 739. Increase over last year, 364 Baptisms.

5th.—Present Membership—Japan 40; China 1,266; Africa 247; Italy 430; Brazil 1,277; Mexico 1,035. Total 4,295.

6th.—Finances for year ending May 1st, 1896—Net receipts of the Treasurer $101,168,01. Total disbursements for Foreign Missions $105,018,90.

7th.—Am't we now owe for money borrowed $26,092,89—The clouded mind of the China man is being enlightened by the word of God, while the haughty spirits of the Japanese make them hard to reach. Other fields are promising. Missionaries with the grace of God, supported by our prayers and purses are what we need, for the more rapid advancement of Christ in our foreign fields.

Of the 742,000,000 of people in our Foreign Mission Fields only 4,295 are enlisted with Baptists.

Respectfully submitted,

T. B. NETTLES, Ch'm.

On motion leave of absence was granted to Bro. William Kyser.

Bro. W. E. Broughton, Treasurer of District Board made report. On motion said report was referred to an Auditing committee consisting of Brethren W S. Wiggins and J. T. Newberry.

Bro. Thos. S. Wiggins made report as to the workings of the District Board during the year. Discussed by Elder J. H. Riffe, and adopted as read:

The District Board respectfully reports as follows:

We have held three Board meetings during the Association year, one at Monroeville, one at Pleasant Hill, and one at Bethany, but am sorry to say that these meetings were poorly attended by the members. We have had three protracted meetings during the year, one of seven days with Little River Church conducted by Bro. J. H. Riffe, resulting in the revival of the church, with three accessions, and leaving the church in better working condition. At this meeting $12.00 was collected and contributed to the Board. Also another meeting at Mt. Pleasant church, conducted by Bro. Riffe, resulted in a gracious revival with 5 accessions, where $15.00 was raised, and contributed to the Board, making at the two meetings $27.00 collected, paying with *one dollar* for Bro. Riffe's services, which has been paid by the Board. Bro. W. A. Locke held a meeting of nine days at Lomax, in Escambia county, with gratifying results, viz: 10 accessions, and $5.00 collected for the Board, so that the balance to be paid by the Board was only $13.00. This report will show that the Mission work in our bounds for the present year has cost $46.00 of which $32.00 was collected on the field, leaving only $14.00 chargeable to the Board.

There are other localities needing and desiring this work, and we believe great good can be accomplished through this Board, if sustained by a proper interest and sympathy on the part of the churches, but we are sorry to state that it has not received the co-operation of its own members, that we believe it should have. We ask the payers and co-operation of all. As to the financial condition of the Board, we refer to the Treasurer's report.

Respectfully submitted, THOS. S. WIGGINS, Ch'm.

The report on Education was submitted and discussed by Elders B. H. Crumpton and J. H. Riffe, and amended by Elder J. H. Riffe. Adopted as amended as follows:

Education is a part of the foundation upon which all of the interests, fostered by our denomination, rest and are supported. When our ministers are properly educated, whether this education is received at home,

at college or at the Seminary, then and not until then, will our churches be developed in giving and in all the departments of church work. The great need of our people today is not more money but better instruction as to the proper use of the money they have. This instruction can be best given by the consecrecrated, earnest and educated pastor.

Why do some of our churches send up letters that are blank on State Missions, Home Missions and Foreign Missions? Because the pastors have failed to do their duty. There is not a church in the State, but could and would do something for these causes if they were properly presented to them.

We now have at the Howard 23 young preachers that have been indorsed by the churches. In order to keep them there it will require about $2300. This Association will be expected to pay its part. Several of our young ministers have gone to the Seminary, and of course we must meet our part of the expenses there. Brethren, the prospect for us as a people is encouraging. The Howard and the Seminary give free tuition to all preachers. If we will do our part the time is not far distant when all of our churches shall be in symyathy, and shall support the Gospel plan of evangelizing the world.

Respectfully submitted, W. E. Broughton.

AMENDMENT.

That we recommend to our people the Howard College, to foster and patronize; and that we now and here call the roll of churches of this Association, asking the Pastors and Messengers present to pledge a promise to try to raise some definite amount within the next month if possible, so as to report by the meeting of the State Convention at Huntsville which shall be to liquidate the Howard debt.

In obedience to the amendment to the report on Education the following pledges were made Bethany Church $10,00, Enon Church 4.00, Philadelphia Church 15.00, Pleasant Ridge Church 5.00, Ramah Church 5.00, Brewer Creek Church 1.00, Repton, 2.50, Hamilton Hill Church 5.00, Monroeville Church 10.00, Perdue Hill Church 10.00, Poplar Springs Church 2.50, Oak Grove Church 5.00, Salem Church 5.00, Zion Church 5.00, Little River Church 2.00.

On motion Brother T. S. Wiggins was granted leave of absence.

Brother W. S. Wiggins from Auditing committee reported that on examination they find the Treasurer's report to be correct. The said Treasurer's report was then adopted as follows:—For said report see last page.

After devotional exercises conducted by Elder W. M. Rabb the Association adjourned till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

## THIRD DAY, FRIDAY.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator at 9 o'clock. Devotional services were conducted by Elder Collin Locke. Minutes of previous day read and approved.

Elder Collin Locke made report on State Missions. Discussed by Elders W. A. Lock and W. M. Rabb and Bro. W. L. Rikard and amended so as to require the incoming Treasurer to investigate the condition of the Alexander Travis Colportuer's fund, and report at the next session of this body. Report adopted as amended as follows:

### STATE MISSIONS.

The church to whom this report was committed reports as follows:

The State Board occupies a very important position in our denominational work in the State. The State Board was created for a concentrated work, and was made the agent of the other general boards with which our convention co-operates, thus placing this board nearest to the churches and contributors, and also places it between the general board and the churches, and since its inauguration it has done a most herculean work, to it has been committed the preaching of the Gospel among the destitute, Bible distribution and colportage work, and work among the colored people, and last but not least, the education of our young preachers for which this board is responsible provided the money is furnished by the churches.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

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| July the 1st, 1896 to bal. on hand Nov. the 1st, 1896 | $ 208,29 |
| To receipts since then | 5,307,63 |
| Total | 5,515,92 |
| By disbursements | 6,695,76 |
| which leave this board in debt to the amount of | 1,178,84 |
| Bible and colportage work, to receipt | 21,41 |
| By disbursements | 9,99 |
| Balance on hand | 11,42 |
| Ministerial Education to bal. on hand last reported | 230,37 |
| To Receipts | 810,17 |
| Total | 1,040,54 |
| By disbursements | 853,05 |
| Balance on hand | 186,49 |

This board has in its employ a splendid corps of workers in various parts of the State doing a noble work, and if our general Missionary interest succeed it will be because of our support and co-operation with this board, therefore we recommend it to the churches.

W. A. LOCKE.

Elder W. A. Locke submitted a report on the condition of the churches composing this body. Report adopted as follows:

## REPORT ON CONDITION OF CHURCHES.

Your committee on condition of churches, upon examination of the letters, find a general spiritual improvement, as attested by revivals and improved contributions. From the tone of the letters and the fine representation from the churches, we think the outlook of the churches is very promising.

After substracting the decrease of members from the increase, there remains an increase of thirty-seven members. One good sign as noted in the decrease is a wholesome discipline is being exercised. Under the circumstances all things are quite satisfactory.

Respectfully submitted, B. H. CRUMPTON.
W. A. LOCKE.

Bro. D. K. Smith made report on nominations and requests. Discussed by Brethren N. A. McNiel and J. D. McCrory, adopted as read as follows:

Your committee on requests and nominations report as follows: There are two requests for the sitting of this body with them the next session, and after consultation with the Messengers from the churches we recommend the next session of this body to convene with Pleasant Hill Church on Wednesday after the third Sunday in Sept. 1897 at 11 o'clock sharp.

We recommend Bro. W. A. Locke to deliver the introductory sermon.
" " " A. J. Lambert, Alternate.
" " " B. H. Crumpton as Messenger to the State Baptist Convention.

We recommend Bro. A. J. Lambert as Alternate.

Messenger Elder J. H. Riffe to the State Baptist Association.
W. A. Locke, Alternate.

Respectfully submitted, D. K. SMITH, Ch'm.

The Moderator appointed Standing Committee to report at the next session of this body as follows:

## STANDING COMMITTEES TO REPORT AT NEXT SESSION.

1. State Missions:—Philadelphia.
2. Home Missions:—Oak Grove.
3. Foreign Missions:—Bellville.
4. Education:—Hamilton Hill.
5. Orphan's Home:—Pleasant Hill.
6. Sunday Schools:—Bethany.
7. Religious Literature:—Zion.
8. Temperance:—Enon.

## DISTRICT AND ADVISORY BOARDS.

Executive Board—S. H. Daily, Ch'm, Kempville; T. S. Wiggins, Treas., Monroeville; W. E. Broughton, Perdue Hill; S. J. Biven, Claiborne; L. R. Riley, Bermuda.

Advisory Board—Zion—H. C. Johhston, Axle; Salem—David Jay, Perdue Hill; Repton—G. W. Thompson, Repton; Ramah—Wm. Williams, Finklea; Poplar Springs—J. W. Murphy, Nero; Pleasant Ridge—Davie Smith, Monroeville; Pleasant Hill—J. N. Blanton, Perdue Hill; Oak Grove—D. W. Powell, Excel; Monroeville—Wm. Rikard, Monroeville; Little River—W. R. Lambert, Mt. Pleasant; Judson—B. F. Bates, Atmore; Hamilton Hill—S. P. Hetherington, Claiborne; Enon—Burl Quinby, Hollinger; Brewer Creek—J. D. McCrory, Abbott; Bethany—John Morris, Bermuda; Bellville—Wm. Miller, Bellville; Philadelphia—T. B. Nettles, Kempville; Perdue Hill—Jas. Thames, Perdue Hill; (Mt. Pleasant, Mar's Hill, Montgomery Hill not represented.)

All the resident Pastors of the Association.

W. A. Locke, Ch'm.

On motion the Treasurer and Clerk were appointed a committee to investigate the matter in relation to the Tombstone of Bro. P. H. Lundy.

The following order of business, for the guidance of this body, was reported by Elder J. H. Riffe, and adopted.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Call the body to order at 11 a. m.
2. Refer the letters to a committee of two for enrollment of Messengers.
3. Introductory Sermon.
4. Roll-call for correction.
5. Appointment of a committee of two to receive the ballot for Mo-

derator and Clerk, at the door on re-assembling.

6. Fixing time for meeting and adjourning during the session.
7. Appointment of committee on preaching.
8. Adjournment.
9. Report of committee on election of Moderator and Clerk.
10. Recognition of visiting brethren.
11. Reading Constitution.
12. Reception of churches.
13. Announcement of Standing Committees to report during the session and filling vacancies, if any occur, and appointment of other necessary committees.

14. Hearing and discussing reports: (1.) Treasurer's and appointment of committee to audit same and report at pleasure; (2) Chairman of District Board; (3) State Missions; (4) Home Missions; (5) Foreign Missions; (6) Education; (7) Orphan's Home; (8) Sunday Schools; (9) Religious Literature; (10) Temperance; (11) Conditions of Churches; (12) Nominations and Requests.

15. Appointment of Standing Committees to report at next session.
16. New Business.
17. Resolutions.
18. Adjournment.

The following resolution was offered by Elder J. H. Riffe. Discussed by Elder J. H. Riffe and Bro. W. L. Rikard, and adopted:

RESOLVED:—

1. That this body recommend to the churches composing it, that they, severally, in conference assembled before the next session of this body, fix the amount that they, severally, are willing to pledge for the ensuing year for the several objects fostered, by this Association, and affix the same to the statistical letter.

2. That the Treasurer's book shall be closed one week before the next sitting of this body, and that all the churches are requested to remit all cash and vouchers to the Treasurer before that time, and that all remittances after said date be carried over and reported in the ensuing year.

A motion prevailed that the Clerk have the Minutes printed where it can be done cheapest, and that he be allowed $10,00 for his services.

A motion was adopted, That all surplus money in the hands of the Treasurer, be equally distributed among the different Mission causes.

The following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, That henceforth, it shall be the duty of the Messengers of this Association, to assemble in the House promptly at the time appointed for convening of the body, and not to leave the House without permission of the Moderator, until adjournment.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED:—That this body hereby tender a vote of thanks, to this church, and good people for the hospitable manner in which they have received and entertained us during the sittings of this body.

The Association having closed its business Elder W. M. Rabb preached a very able, and impressive sermon, from Judges 7, chapter and 7 verse and after singing "How firm a foundasion, etc., and extending the parting hand, and the blessings of our Heavenly Father, asked by Bro. W. A. Locke upon our efforts, the Association adjourned to meet with the Pleasant Hill Church, Monroe county, Ala., on Wednesday after the Third Sunday in September 1897 at 11 o'clock a. m.

J. H. RIFFE, Moderator.

S. H. DAILEY, Clerk.

## DIRECTORY OF BETHLEHEM ASSOCIATION FOR 1393.

| CHURCHES. | MEETING | PASTORS. | POST OFFICE | CLERKS. | POST OFFICE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bellville | 3 Sun | S P Lindsey | Georgiana | Wm Miller | Bellville |
| Bethany | 1 Sun | J H Riffe | Monroeville | J P Watkins | Burnt Corn |
| Brewer Creek | 2 Sun | I S Ridgway | Turkestan | J H Kelley | Bowles |
| Enon | 2 Sun | A J Lambert | Mt Pleasant | L R Carter | Hollingers |
| Hamilton Hill | 2 Sun | B H Crumpton | Bellville | L A Hixon | Claiborne |
| Judson | 1 Sun | A T Sims | Georgiana | J W Ficklin | Atmore |
| Little River | 3 Sun | A J Lambert | Mt Pleasant | W R Lambert | Mt Pleasant |
| Monroeville | 2 Sun | J H Riffe | Monroeville | Jno DeLoach | Monroeville |
| Mt. Pleasant | | | | T W Wetherf'd | Mt Pleasant |
| McConnico | 4 Sun | R I Draughon | Perdue Hill | J L Ballard | Perdue Hill |
| Mars Hill | | | | | |
| Montg'ry Hill | | | | | |
| Oak Grove | 3 Sun | W A Locke | Axle | M Stacy | Tekoa |
| Pleasant Hill | 1 Sun | A J Lambert | Mt Pleasant | C R Lambert | Manistee |
| Pleasant Ridge | 4 Sun | W A Locke | Axle | J L Smith | Monroeville |
| Poplar Springs | 1 Sun | H G B Ray | Canoe | W A House | Nero |
| Perdue Hill | 3 Sun | J H Riffe | Monroeville | J D Boykin | Perdue Hill |
| Philadelphia | 4 Sun | J H Riffe | Monroeville | J D Nettles | Kempville |
| Ramah | 3 Sun | I S Ridgway | Turkestan | J N Waters | Finkfea |
| Repton | 1 Sun | J H Riffe | Monroeville | W C Thompson | Repton |
| Salem | 2 Sun | W A Locke | Axle | L S Fountain | Perdue Hill |
| Zion | 1 Sun | W A Locke | Axle | C C McWilliams | Axle |

Saturday before

## STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 1896.

| CHURCHES. | Membership last year | Baptized | Rec'd by letter | Dism. by letter | Excluded | Restored | Decrease | Total increase | Total decrease | Net increase | Present membership | Value of church property |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bellville | 89 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 100 | $800. |
| Bethany | 64 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 66 | 800. |
| Brewer Creek | 121 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 122 | 400. |
| Enon | 60 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 3 | 9 | 69 | 500. |
| Hamilton Hill | 52 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 51 | 800. |
| Judson | 42 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 48 | 100. |
| Little River | 13 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 18 | 250. |
| Mars Hill | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Montgomery Hill | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Monroeville | 96 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 92 | 900. |
| Mount Pleasant | 29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 31 | 300. |
| McConnico | 27 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 22 | |
| Oak Grove | 88 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 8 | 4 | 92 | 200. |
| Pleasant Hill | 101 | 22 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 23 | 8 | 5 | 116 | |
| Pleasant Ridge | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 87 | |
| Poplar Springs | 53 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 51 | 200. |
| Perdue Hill | 58 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 0 | 51 | 1500. |
| Philadelphia | 120 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 118 | 1000. |
| Ramah | 88 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 94 | 150. |
| Repton | 22 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 27 | |
| Salem | 151 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 143 | 100. |
| Zion | 143 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 139 | |
| Total | 1507 | 70 | 34 | 45 | 24 | 11 | 16 | 115 | 85 | 66 | 1534 | 8000. |

## STATISTICS OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS REPORTED IN 1896.

| SCHOOLS. | SUPERINTENDENT. | POST OFFICE. | Pupils | Average attend | Contributions |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bellville | E. J. Hardie. | Bellville, | 25 | | 0 |
| Bethany | T. J. Maxwell and A. J. Lee, Assistant, | Burnt Corn, | 35 | 15 | 0 |
| Enon | L. R. Carter, | Hollinger, | 42 | 30 | 0 |
| Hamilton Hill | J. A. Wiggins, | Claiborne, | 42 | | 0 |
| Judson | B. F. Carter. | Atmore, | | | 0 |
| Little River | W. R. Lambert. | Mt. Pleasant, | 15 | | 0 |
| Monroeville | T. S. Wiggins, | Monroeville. | 48 | 25 | 0 |
| Mt. Pleasant | A. F. Lambert, | Mt. Pleasant, | 40 | 15 | 0 |
| Pleasant Hill | A. C. Lambert, | Manistee. | 25 | 20 | 0 |
| Philadelphia | J. T. Newberry, | Kempville, | 40 | 30 | 0 |
| Ramah | S. J. Countryman, | Finklea. | 27 | 20 | 0 |
| Zion | H. C. Johnson. | Axle. | 40 | 30 | |
| | | | 382 | 185 | |

## REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE.

| CHURCHES. | DISTRICT MISSIONS | | STATE MISSIONS | | HOME MISSIONS | | FOREIGN MISSION | | ORHHANS HOME | | MIN'ST'ED | | MINUTE | | HOWARD COLLEGE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cash | Voucher | Cash | Voucher | Cash | Voucher | Cash | Voucher | Cash | Voucher | Cash | Voucher | Cash | Voucher | Cash | Voucher |
| Salem | 3 75 | | | | | | | | 1 65 | | 1 55 | | 2 30 | | | |
| Judson | 1 13 | | 1 13 | | 1 12 | | 1 12 | | | | | | 50 | | | |
| Phhiladelphia | 3 00 | 2 00 | 3 00 | 2 00 | 3 00 | 2 00 | 3 05 | 6 47 | 1035 | 2 00 | 6 75 | 5 50 | 2 55 | | | |
| Repton | | | | | | | 1 50 | | | | | | 1 25 | | | |
| Pleasant Ridge | | | | | 2 75 | | 2 75 | | 1 22 | | | | 2 10 | | | |
| Zion | 3 00 | | 3 00 | | 3 00 | | 3 00 | | 1 35 | 2 70 | | | 1 00 | | | 1500 |
| Oak Grove | 1 75 | | 1 75 | | 1 75 | | 1 75 | | 3 70 | | 85 | | 2 00 | | | |
| Ramah | 2 00 | | 1 00 | | 2 00 | | 50 | | | | | | 1 75 | | | |
| Bethany | 81 | 48¾ | 80 | 48¾ | 80 | 48¾ | 80 | 48¾ | 3 10 | 2 10 | 3 65 | | 2 00 | | | |
| Monroeville | 5 47 | 2 83 | 5 47 | 2 83 | 5 47 | 2 83 | 5 47 | 2 83 | 6 08 | 1 85 | 4 00 | 1000 | 2 35 | | | |
| Poplar Springs | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 35 | | | |
| Enon | 1 50 | 50 | 1 50 | 50 | 2 00 | 50 | 5 50 | 50 | 1 50 | 1 00 | | | 1 75 | | | |
| Hamilton Hill | | | 4 50 | | 4 50 | | 4 25 | | | | | | 1 50 | | | 9 10 |
| Bellville | 2 86 | | 2 86 | | 2 86 | | 2 86 | | 3 25 | | 4 95 | | 2 00 | | | |
| Pleasant Hill | 95 | | 95 | | 95 | | 95 | | 1 50 | 8 45 | | | 1 70 | | | |
| McConnico | 96 | | 93 | | 93 | | 93 | | | | | | 40 | | | |
| Little River | 05 | 1200 | 50 | | 50 | | 50 | | | | | | 35 | | | |
| Mt Pleasant | | 1500 | | | | | 1 00 | | | | | | 50 | | | |
| Perdue Hill | | 4 35 | | 4 35 | | 4 35 | | 7 85 | | 9 70 | | 6 20 | 2 60 | | | |
| Brewer Creek | | | | | 50 | | | | 65 | | | | 80 | | | |
| Total | 2723 | | 2739 | | 3213 | | 3593 | | 3735 | | 2178 | | 3075 | | | |
| Total vouchers | | 3716 | | 1016 | | 9 76 | | 1811 | | 2781 | | 2170 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2410 | | |
| | 4079 | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 80 cash from '95 | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| | $221 63 |
| | 139 70 |
| | 361 33 |
| | $46 59 |
| " this session | 221 63 |
| | $268 22 |

We, the Auditory Committee find the Treasurer Report correct.

W. S WIGGINS, SR.,

J. T. NEWBERRY.

Submitted, W. E. BROUGHTON, Sec'y and Treas.

# ORDER OF BUSINESS.

—O—

1. Call the body to order at 11 a. m.
2. Refer the letters to a committee of two for enrollment of Messengers.
3. Introductory Sermon.
4. Roll-call for correction.
5. Appointment of a committee of two to receive the ballot for Moderator and Clerk, at the door on re-assembling.
6. Fixing time for meeting and adjourning during the session.
7. Appointment of committee on preaching.
8. Adjournment.
9. Report of committee on election of Moderator and Clerk.
10. Recognition of visiting brethren.
11. Reading Constitution.
12. Reception of churches.
13. Announcement of Standing Committees to report during the session and filling vacancies, if any occur, and appointment of other necessary committees.
14. Hearing and discussing reports: (1.) Treasurer's and appointment of committee to audit same and report at pleasure; (2) Chairman of District Board; (3) State Missions; (4) Home Missions; (5) Foreign Missions; (6) Education; (7) Orphan's Home; (8) Sunday Schools; (9) Religious Literature; (10) Temperance; (11) Conditions of Churches; (12) Nominations and Requests.
15. Appointment of Standing Committees to report at next session.
16. New Business.
17. Resolutions.
18. Adjournment.